

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
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APPROVED BY EB/OT/GCP - J SLATTERY
ARA/ECP - A COOLEY (SUBS)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS STATE 060662

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: SUGAR AND GSP
REF: KINGSTON 2339

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM EMBASSY OF JAMAICA PRIOR TO EXECUTIVE ORDER OF FEBRUARY 25, REQUESTING THAT SUGAR FROM JAMAICA BE REDESIGNATED AS ELIGIBLE FOR GSP. DEPARTMENT REPLIED AND PROMISED THAT THE VIEWS OF JAMAICA WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION IN ANY DECISION.

2. THERE WERE NINE COUNTRIES THAT HAD NOT EXCEEDED THE COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITS (33.4 MILLION DOLLARS) ON SUGAR DURING 1977 AND THUS WERE ELIGIBLE FOR REDESIGNATION IN 1978. THESE COUNTRIES WERE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, GUYANA, INDIA,
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JAMAICA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA AND THAILAND. AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION, THE INTERAGENCY TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE, DECIDED NOT TO RECOMMEND REDESIGNATION FOR THE ABOVE COUNTRIES. CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE SUGAR REMAINS ON THE DUTY-FREE GSP LIST, THE ABOVE COUNTRIES TOGETHER WITH ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, PERU AND THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC REMAIN

INELIGIBLE FOR GSP DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR SUGAR FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MARCH 1, 1978.

3. IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES FROM COUNTRIES THAT WERE NOT REDESIGNATED FOR SUGAR, DEPARTMENT IS REFERRING TO TWO REASONS IN GENERAL WHY IT WAS NOT FOUND POSSIBLE TO REDESIGNATE SUGAR. ONE WAS BECAUSE THE REDESIGNATION OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE GSP WOULD UNDERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE US DOMESTIC SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM AT A TIME WHEN THIS PROGRAM IS JUST BEGINNING AND IS STILL UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY. IN ADDITION, MANY FOREIGN PRODUCERS OF SUGAR ARE COMPETITIVE IN THE US MARKET WITHOUT GSP BENEFITS. VANCE

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